

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00145 301643Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8091

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0145

FOR EUR ONLY

FOR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, EUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, NATO, IC
SUBJECT: US - ICELANDIC RELATIONS: VISIT OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR
ROBERT FUNSETH

REF: REYKJAVIK 0133

1. I BELIEVE BOB FUNSETH'S VISIT TO REYKJAVIK WAS MOST HELPFUL AND TIMELY. IT REASSURED FOREIGN MINISTER THAT U.S. IS MOVING AHEAD IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF DUAL PURPOSE AIR TERMINAL PROPOSAL AND THAT SUBJECT REMAINS OF KEEN INTEREST AT HIGHEST LEVELS STATE AND DEFENSE. BOB'S FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF WASHINGTON STATE-OF-PLAY AND HIS KEY ROLE IN MOVING ISSUE TO RESOLUTION LENT PARTICULAR WEIGHT TO HIS ASSURANCES.

2. ON THEIR SIDE, FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON AND PRIME MINISTER, WHOSE COMMENTS FOREIGN MINISTER CONVEYED, MUST HAVE BEEN SATISFIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASIZE NEED FOR EARLY USG DECISION ON DUAL PURPOSE PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF APPROACHING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. IN SUM, MY IMPRESSION IS THAT EXCHANGES WHICH VISIT MADE POSSIBLE WERE FRANK, CORDIAL, MUTUALLY INFORMATIVE AND UNDOUBTEDLY HELPFUL TO OUR OVER-ALL RELATIONS WITH THIS
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SMALL BUT STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT ALLY.

3. WASHINGTON WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING ANSWER ON TERMINAL ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BY SPRING. WE READ "SPRING" AS MEANING "MARCH". BY THAT TIME PRESENT COALITION SHOULD HAVE DECIDED IN LIGHT ECONOMIC SITUATION WHETHER

IT SHOULD TRY TO SURVIVE INTO JUNE OR TAKE ITS CHANCES
ON SEEKING POPULAR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AT AN EARLIER
DATE.
BLAKE

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